



**Eddie A. Perez**  
Mayor

### **Hartford Now!**

#### **Preserving Progress; Preparing For Growth**

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It is no secret that our country is hurting financially and economically and needs a jumpstart fast! That is why I have proposed a \$70 million initiative called “Hartford Now” to President-Elect Obama because what better place to stimulate the economy than in the poorest city in the richest state. Hartford has “shovel ready” projects to create jobs for “Main Street America” to preserve the progress we’ve made during the last seven years and to prepare us for more growth in the future.

That long-term progress includes \$2 billion in economic development investments that have retained 4,400 jobs and created 3,300 more. We need to build on this momentum and “Hartford Now” is intended to do just that by infusing this \$70 million into five key areas--- \$25 million for public safety; \$18 million for school construction; \$10 million for the greening of buildings; another \$10 million for streetscapes; and \$7 million for a jobs training program.

The future Public Safety Complex on High Street in Downtown Hartford is a perfect example of how to use Federal funds effectively to stimulate the economy. This project provides a centralized facility for fire, police and emergency services; creates jobs and spurs economic development in three neighborhoods; has a positive environmental impact by using fuel cell technology; and preserves a historic structure.

The complex is the centerpiece of a bigger community revitalization strategy. It strengthens neighborhood policing and provides a stimulus to our plans for Downtown North by encouraging economic development across I-84. This \$85 million project would create about 800 jobs and we’d ask the Federal Government for \$25 million. It will be “shovel ready” in 90 days.

School construction is one of the City’s biggest accomplishments. During the past seven years, we have completed about \$500 million worth of school construction and renovations. 30 more schools need upgrades. For this \$120 million project, we’re asking for \$18 million so that we can create 1000 jobs.

Not only should our schools provide a positive learning environment for our students, they should be energy efficient as well. This, along with the making the Municipal

Building more energy-friendly, would create about 90 jobs. A \$10 million investment would help bolster this effort by focusing on energy management, heating and cooling systems and new windows.

Speaking of energy, we need to better capture the energy flow of commuting so it is crucial that we better connect the City to the surrounding region. We've already taken the first steps by working with Ken Greenberg, a world renowned expert in this field and with the Urban Land Institute. Both have provided us with plans to capitalize on streetscape projects for our major arteries. These too are "shovel ready." Albany, Farmington, and Wethersfield Avenues would be excellent additions to the work already completed on Upper Main Street, Blue Hills Avenue, Trumbull Street and Park Street. This could create 90 jobs and we are asking for \$10 million to get started right away.

Last but not least, we need a jobs program similar to the school construction program that we have created locally thanks to our partnership with Greater Hartford Building Trades, the Minority Construction Council and the Jobs Funnel. We are asking for \$7 million to implement a federal initiative to create 92 more jobs that would train city residents and give them skills to last a lifetime.

We could take this one step further by training and hiring unemployed and re-entry residents to work in our parks. This "second chance" would be an investment in human capital by way of a government or non-profit sector job and at the same time, this would upgrade our historic parks to help restore them to their former glory.

President Obama wants a greener environment--- as do all of us. Hartford could really go green by putting more money in people's pockets while protecting our environment, preserving our progress and preparing the Capital City for future growth.

Eddie A. Perez is the Mayor of Hartford and is the keynote speaker at the MetroHartford Alliance Rising Star Breakfast on Tuesday, January 13, 2009. For more information, log on to [www.hartford.gov](http://www.hartford.gov) and go to the news scroll/press release section.